

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated October 31, 2007 and the Advisory Action dated February 5, 2008. Claims 14-26 are pending in this application. Claims 1-13 were previously canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claims 14-26 have amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. Accordingly, claims 14-26 are now pending and presented for continued examination, with claims 14, 19 and 22 being in independent form.

Claims 14-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,922,255 to Tomida in view of Watanabe (US 2002-0122215 A1).

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 14, 19 and 22 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

The present application relates to various improvements devised by applicant to enable a communication apparatus to determine and set appropriately the subject name of an electronic mail message at the time of transmission. An aspect of the present application (independent claims 14 and 22) includes registering for each of a plurality of registered user codes, one or more corresponding subject names associated with the registered user code, determining whether a specific user code, specific to a current operator and differentiating the current operator from other operators of the network facsimile apparatus, has been specified, and automatically determining a subject name from among the subject names registered for the specific user code of the current operator, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted. In another aspect of the present application (independent claim 19), another subject name is automatically specified, based on the mail address registered for the specific user code, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted, if it is determined that the specific

user code of the current operator has been specified and that the mail address is registered for the specific user code.

Tomida, as understood by Applicant, proposes an Internet facsimile device wherein a header including a title selected by a user using the device is transmitted along with e-mail data. In the device proposed by Tomida, any one of a plurality of one-touch keys can be associated with a corresponding title. The user can designate the title by depressing one of the one-touch keys.

It is contended in the Office Action that the one-touch key of Tomida is equated with a specific user code.

However, as previously pointed out in the record, a one-touch key must be operated by the user to select the corresponding title.

On the other hand, the subject matter of the present application provides for (i) automatically determining a subject name from among the subject names registered for the specific user code of the current operator, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted (independent claims 14 and 22 of the present application), and/or (ii) automatically specifying another subject name, based on the mail address registered for the specific user code, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted, if it is determined that the specific user code of the current operator has been specified and that the mail address is registered for the specific user code (independent claim 19 of the present application).

Such features will ensure that when mail is transmitted, an appropriate subject name specific to the user is included in the data, even if no subject name has been specified by the user for the mail, by operation of a one-touch key or another means.

In Tomida, the title corresponding to a one-touch key is not specific to any particular

user, and therefore operation thereof by an operator does not differentiate the operator from other operators of the device. Further, as already pointed out, the one-touch key is effectively only through manual operation thereof by the user.

Tmoida simply does not disclose or suggest (i) automatically determining a subject name from among the subject names registered for the specific user code of the current operator, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted (independent claims 14 and 22 of the present application), and/or (ii) automatically specifying another subject name, based on the mail address registered for the specific user code, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted, if it is determined that the specific user code of the current operator has been specified and that the mail address is registered for the specific user code (independent claim 19 of the present application).

Watanabe, as understood by Applicant, proposes a facsimile apparatus wherein account information can be registered in an internal memory of the facsimile apparatus, one of these items of account information is selected for use in authentication processing. For example, a user may be required to specify a user name and password before the user can use the facsimile apparatus.

However, Watanabe is not concerned with using user identity or identification to select a title or subject name for mail to be transmitted.

The combination of Tomida and Watanabe does not disclose or suggest (i) automatically determining a subject name from among the subject names registered for the specific user code of the current operator, as the transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted (independent claims 14 and 22 of the present application), and/or (ii) automatically specifying another subject name, based on the mail address registered for the specific user code, as the

transmission subject name of the mail data to be transmitted, if it is determined that the specific user code of the current operator has been specified and that the mail address is registered for the specific user code (independent claim 19 of the present application).

Further, common knowledge or common sense of the person of ordinary skill in the art would have suggested to the person that the subject name or title of a mail must be specified by the user.

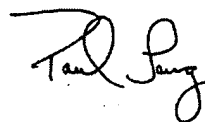
On the other hand, applicant determined that the transmission subject name can be automatically determined, using any one of several candidate methods (see, for example, pages of 17-21 of the present application), without the operator specifying the subject name.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 14, 19 and 22, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art, and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any required fees, and to credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Teng", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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